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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement After Meeting with MP Michel Aoun
Beirut, Lebanon
Monday, 22 June 2009**

I wanted to say a few words. This morning, I had a very good meeting with General Aoun. We talked about the situation, the domestic political situation in Lebanon, and we also consulted the General on the regional situation, in all its aspects, the Palestinian situation but also other issues in the region.

We now look forward to the election of a Speaker and the formation of a new government. There are many views to be discussed [?], and the various proposals by the parties will also need to be reflected [upon].

I believe, on behalf of the United Nations, that it is important that we have a government very soon, so that important issues can be looked at, including important political reforms, and this would be best also for regional stability.

Q: Did you discuss the Iranian elections?

A: We discussed it a little. Both General Aoun and I have visited Iran in the past, and so of course we did discuss the developments there.

Q: What about the Palestinians?

A: Very much so, yes. Always with General Aoun, he raises the cause of the Palestinians. He, as with other Lebanese leaders, has great concerns over the recent speech by [Israeli Prime Minister] Netanyahu. There is a real concern, among all Lebanese politicians, to see real progress on the Palestinian issue, and everybody I talk to, they say that they see no real progress yet.
